Strong Argument: Ogyen Trinley Dorje (17th Karmapa) Engaged in Sexual Assault, Exploitation, and Deceptive Damage Control

Ogyen Trinley Dorje, recognized as the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa and head of the Karma Kagyu lineage, stands credibly accused of **sexually assaulting** a nun-in-training, fathering a child through that assault, and then using money and false promises to silence and manage the victim while protecting his public image as a celibate spiritual leader. These claims are not baseless rumors — they are detailed in a **public court filing** from the British Columbia Supreme Court.

The Core Assault (October 14, 2017)

While Vikki Hui Xin Han was on a strict three-year meditation retreat at Karme Ling monastery in New York (a protected women's space), Dorje allegedly entered her private room and **sexually assaulted** her. This was non-consensual. Han became pregnant as a direct result. As her spiritual teacher, whose blessing she had sought to become a nun, Dorje abused the immense power and trust she placed in him. This was not a lapse in judgment between equals — it was exploitation of a devoted follower in a sacred, restricted environment. (See: 2021 BCSC 939, para. 11)

Initial Denial Followed by Secret "Relationship" and Massive Payments

When confronted in November 2017, Dorje **initially denied responsibility** but quickly provided his personal contact details and promised financial help. What followed was a hidden digital relationship via messaging apps, emails, and calls, filled with affection, plans for the future, and discussions of marriage (despite his monastic vows forbidding it).

Key evidence from the public court record:

- Dorje transferred **hundreds of thousands of dollars** through third parties, including:
    - $50,000 CAD for delivery and postpartum care.
    - $300,000 CAD for the child's first year.
    - $20,000 USD for a wedding ring (at Han's request).
    - $400,000 USD toward purchasing a home.
- On **September 17, 2018**, he explicitly wrote: **“Taking care of her and you are my duty for life.”** (2021 BCSC 939, para. 20)

No one sends this volume of money "for nothing." These payments, combined with affectionate messages and cohabitation plans (properties in multiple cities, immigration sponsorship), demonstrate Dorje's acknowledgment of paternity and ongoing responsibility — while keeping everything secret to preserve his reputation.

Abandonment and Legal Fallout

Contact ended abruptly in January 2019. Han was left to raise the child alone. She filed the family law case in July 2019 seeking child support and parentage. In 2021, the BC Supreme Court allowed her to amend the claim to include spousal support, ruling that her allegations raised a **reasonable claim** of a marriage-like relationship (even if conducted virtually). The

court treated her facts as presumed true for the application. (Full judgment: https://www.bccourts.ca/jdb-txt/sc/21/09/2021BCSC0939cor1.htm)

Why This Is Damning

- **Financial Trail Proves Involvement** — Large, targeted transfers + the "duty for life" message cannot be dismissed as charity. They show Dorje took responsibility for the child resulting from the alleged assault.
- **Abuse of Spiritual Authority** — Violating a nun under his guidance in a monastery retreat is a profound betrayal of Buddhist vows and ethics.
- **Secrecy and Hypocrisy** — Maintaining a public image as a celibate high lama while engaging in a hidden relationship and fathering a child reveals deception on a massive scale.
- **Private Evidence Strengthens Credibility** — The details (texts, transfers, timeline) come from Han's affidavit and were not public gossip. A court found them sufficient to advance the case.

Dorje has not publicly denied the specifics in detail, and the case was later discontinued without a full trial on the merits. However, the public court file provides clear, sworn evidence of serious misconduct. This is a clear case of a powerful religious leader exploiting a follower, causing lifelong harm, and attempting to buy silence rather than take full accountability.

Primary Source:

2021 BCSC 939 Han v. Dorje —
https://www.bccourts.ca/jdb-txt/sc/21/09/2021BCSC0939cor1.htm

This public document, combined with the scale of the payments and the context of spiritual authority, makes a compelling case that Ogyen Trinley Dorje committed sexual assault and then prioritized his status over justice and transparency.